REMARKS

Applicants carefully considered the Final Office Action mailed on May 31, 2007. In the Office Action, claims 8-13, 15-17 and 19-37 were rejected. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are requested in view of the arguments herein below.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 8-9, 16, 17, 19-22 and 24-37 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Akabanet al. (US Patent No. 5,207,764) in view of either No et al, (US Patent Publication No. 2003/0074932) or Japan '293 (Japan 2001-259293). Claims 11 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the applied prior art as applied to claims 8, 16, 25 and 35 and further in view of Smith (US Patent No. 3,287,817). Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the applied prior art as applied to claims 8, 16, 25 and 35 and further in view of Japan'500 (Japan 2-63500).

Independent claim 8 recites a wash basket for a washing machine. The wash basket includes a housing having an inner wall fabricated by a first process and a plurality of geometric structures fabricated by a second process, the plurality of geometric structures attached to and extending radially inwardly from the inner wall, the geometric structures comprising a separate structure relative to the housing, wherein a shape of the plurality of geometric structures is configured for reducing a residual moisture content of an article contained within the wash basket during a spin cycle.

Independent claim 16 recites a washing machine. The washing machine includes a cabinet and a wash basket rotatably mounted in the cabinet, the wash basket having a bottom and an inner wall. The washing machine also includes a plurality of geometric structures connected to the inner wall, the geometric structures extending radially inwardly from the inner wall, wherein a shape of the plurality of geometric structures is

configured based on at least an operating parameter of the washing machine for increasing a volume of the wash basket and decreasing a residual moisture content of an article contained within the wash basket during a spin cycle.

Independent claim 25 recites an apparatus in a washing machine for extracting liquid from an article when the apparatus is rotated about an axis. The apparatus includes a substantially cylindrical housing having an inner wall defining a height and a geometric structure attachable to the housing. The apparatus also includes means for attaching the geometric structure to the inner wall, wherein the geometric structure is configured to reduce a residual moisture content of the article contained within the washing machine during a spin cycle.

Independent claim 35 recites a washing machine. The washing machine includes a cabinet and a wash basket rotatably mounted in the cabinet, the wash basket having a bottom and an inner wall. The washing machine also includes an agitator disposed in the wash basket and configured to agitate an article and a liquid in the wash basket and a plurality of rigid geometric structures fixedly attached to the inner wall of the wash basket and extending radially inwardly from the inner wall.

Applicants submit that none of the references cited by the Examiner teach or otherwise suggest each and every element of amended claims 8, 16, 25 and 35. In particular, claims 8, 16, 25 and 35 recite in generally similar language, a washing machine including geometric structures configured *to reduce a residual moisture content of an article contained within the washing machine during a spin cycle*.

The Examiner stated that Akabane teaches a washing machine including a wash basket. The washing machine and the basket comprise a cabinet, an agitator and a housing having an inner wall and a plurality of geometric structures attached to and extending radially inwardly from the inner wall. The Examiner acknowledged that Akabane does not

teach the geometric structures being fabricated by a second process and the shape of the plurality of geometric structures being configured for reducing a residual moisture content of an article. Further, the Examiner relied upon No and Japan'293 to teach arrangement of geometric structures wherein a shape of the geometric structures is configured for reducing a moisture content.

Applicants submit that the cited references, taken alone or in hypothetical combination, fail to teach or suggest the geometric structures being configured to reduce a residual moisture content of an article contained in a washing machine.

Akabane teaches a washing/drying machine having a drum. A plurality of baffles are attached at regular intervals in the inner wall of the drum to catch the washing while the drum is rotating. *See*, Akabane, col. 5, lines 3-6. Akabane does not teach geometric structures configured to reduce a residual moisture content of an article contained in the washing/drying machine. No teaches a washing machine having a water storage vessel and a rotating laundry vessel inside the water storage vessel. The washing machine also includes a friction member (lifter) that contacts laundry in the laundry vessel when the vessel moves such that a friction force is established between the friction member and laundry. The friction member includes a friction enhancer (protrusions) that increases the friction force, and thereby contact, between the friction member and the laundry. Additionally wash water flows into the lifters as they dip into the wash water. The process involves vigorously repeating to rub the laundry thereby carrying out the cleaning. *See*, No, paragraphs [0049] and [0053].

No *does not* teach a configuration of friction member/friction enhancer to reduce a residual moisture content of an article contained in the washing machine. The present application teaches geometric structures such as ribs formed on the periphery of the inner wall of the wash basket. These structures provide ***discrete pressure points*** on clothing during a spin cycle. This compresses the clothing thereby squeezing clothing fibers and

decreasing the size of local capillaries, which in turn increases, ***the local wicking action towards the ribs thereby causing more moisture to be removed from the clothes***. No does not teach such an arrangement. In fact, in No, the force applied by the friction member with the friction enhancers to the laundry (generally tangential to the basket rotation) is generally perpendicular to the force applied to the laundry (generally radial to the basket rotation) by the geometric structures illustrated in the presently claimed invention. Thus, the friction lifter (with the friction enhancer) of No does not compress the clothes in a way to reduce the RMC of the clothes.

Further, Japan '293 teaches an electric washing machine that washes automatically clothing, does not damage clothes during dehydration and automatically removes lint. The washing machine includes a cylindrical groove formed in the bottom of a washing and dehydration tub. Japan'293 does not teach any geometric structure configured to reduce residual moisture content during a spin cycle of the washing machine.

As can be seen, Akabane, No and Japan'293 taken alone or in hypothetical combination, fail to teach or suggest geometric structures for reducing a residual moisture content of an article. Further, none of these references teaches a shape of the plurality of geometric structures being configured *based on at least an operating parameter of the washing machine*, as recited by independent claim 25. In addition, none of these references teaches *rigid geometric structures fixedly* attached to the inner wall of the wash basket, as recited by independent claim 35.

For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that independent claims 8, 16, 25 and 35 are patentable over Akabane, No and Japan'293. Applicants submit that claims 8-9, 17, 19-22 and 24, 26-34 and 37 depend from independent claims 8, 16, 25 or 35 and are similarly allowable for at least the same reasons set forth above.

Claims 11 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the applied prior art as applied to claims 8, 16, 25 and 35 and further in view of Smith (US Patent No. 3,287,817). Claims 11 and 23 each depend from the independent claims 8 and 16 respectively. Applicants submit that Smith does not obviate the deficiencies of the applied prior art as applied to claims 8 and 16. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the applied prior art as applied to claims 8, 16, 25 and 35 and further in view of Japan'500 (Japan 2-63500). Claim 12 depends from the independent claim 8. Applicants submit that Japan'500 does not obviate the deficiencies of the applied prior art as applied to claim 8.

For at least these reasons, among others, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the foregoing rejections.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks and amendments set forth above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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